

DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

3 CAPITOL HILL  
CONFERENCE ROOM 104  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Thursday, September 22, 2016

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Finocchiaro, LICSW  
Connie Gallo, LCSW  
Ronda Jones, MSW, QRC  
Barry Noel, LCSW  
Walter Orellana, LICSW  
Kimberly Perry, LICSW  
Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

None

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alana Rodriguez, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Harrigan, Chief of Professional Boards and Commissions

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. on a motion by Lynn Finocchiaro and seconded by Barry Noel. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the May 19, 2016 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith and seconded by Barry Noel to accept the Open Session minutes of May 19, 2016. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

a. Announcement and Introduction

Ms. Rodriguez introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief background. Ms. Rodriguez introduced new board member, Walter Orellana to the board. Walter Orellana gave the board a brief introduction.

b. Webfile Repository

Alana Rodriguez informed the Board that the Department is in the process of establishing a webfile repository which will allow board managers to upload board matter documents onto the web. Board members will have access to the webpage and members can review the board matter documentation prior to the meeting. Instructions will be provided when made available.

c. Investigating Committee

Sarah Harrigan and Alana Rodriguez discussed the board's duties, reviewed the complaint process and advised Statute Section 5-39.1-12 adhering the board to the Administrative Procedures Act.

d. Licensee Information

Ms. Rodriguez informed the board this year the Department has licensed 72 licensed clinical social workers and 62 licensed independent clinical social workers. In 2016 there are 513 active licensed clinical social workers and 1301 active licensed independent clinical social workers.

4. Old Business

- a. New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification license portability meeting update  
Board members Connie Gallo and Barry Noel provided the board with updates on meeting topics such as licensing portability and practice mobility. Ronda Jones, Lynn Finnochiaro and Walter Orellana expressed interest in attending future meetings.

5. New Business

- a. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Annual meeting in San Diego, California November 17-19, 2016  
Ms. Rodriguez informed the board that the ASWB is requesting state regulators to select a delegate to attend the annual meeting on November 17-19 and Ronda Jones will represent the board and attend the meeting.

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith and seconded by Kimberly Perry to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:41 a.m. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7. Motion to return to Open Session

Due to an emergency evacuation at the Department of Health the Board was unable to return to Open Session to seal the Closed Session Minutes but will do so at the next scheduled board meeting.

8. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board approved two applicants to re-take the ASWB examination

9. Adjournment

The next Board of Social Work Examiners meeting will be TBD at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Barry Noel and seconded by Kimberly Perry to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alana Rodriguez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alana Rodriguez  
Board Manager  
Center for Professional Boards and Commissions